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RECEIVED JUL 2 1910 TAXONOMIC & RANGE INVESTIGATIONS

NO. 39

BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

May 24 to 31, 1910.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

MEDICAGO SATIVA. 27803. From Erivan, Caucasus. A robust form of alfalfa. The climate around Erivan is semi-arid, or even arid, and this variety may prove of value in the Southern Rocky Mountain regions where the climate resembles this very much. 27980. Another variety of alfalfa from Erivan, said to be more drought resistant than No. 27803, but as statements from native dealers cannot be depended upon, it may not be so. In Elisavetpol it is said that Erivan alfalfa lasts 10 years, while Turkestan alfalfa lasts only 6 years. If true, this makes it a much more valuable forage plant than the Central Asian strains. 27981-982. Two varieties of alfalfa from near Elisavetpol, Caucasus. (Meyer's introductions.)

OCIMUM BASILICUM. 27812. From Erivan, Caucasus. A Caucasian summer vegetable, called "Rahan". Apparently a Salvia, or some nearly related labiate. (Meyer's introduction.)

OPUNTIA SP. 27935. From Manila, P. I. Presented by Mr. William S. Lyon. "An absolutely spineless Opuntia. I fancy it is not indigenous because I have only found it about habitations. I will warrant it with never a rudimentary spine. It makes a woody caudex, as thick as a man's thigh, grows from 11 to 13 feet tall and of like diameter of crown." (Lyon.) For distribution later.

PANICUM MILIACEUM. 27827. From Tiflis, Caucasus. A large-grained white proso, considered the best variety in Tiflis. 27828. A reddish proso, said to be very drought resistant. 27994. A local variety of proso from Erivan, having large, brownish red seeds; said to be drought resistant. (Meyer's introductions.)

PASSIFLORA SP. 28010. From Peru. Presented by Prof. William Curtis Farabee. "Small fruits, growing on a vine; very good." (Farabee.) For distribution later. (See photograph of P. ligularis.)

PHASEOLUS COCCINEUS. 27817. A large white bean, probably runner; said to grow in Kherson Government, Southwest Russia, where the climate is warm and rather dry in summer. These beans are much eaten by Jewish residents in Russia. (Meyer's introduction.)

PHASEOLUS VULGARIS. 27818-826. A collection of 9 varieties of native Caucasian beans from Tiflis, Caucasus. 27984-985. Two varieties of beans from Elisavetpol and Geok-Tapa, Caucasus. Said to be among the finest beans in existence for culinary purposes. To be given special care and tested in hot and semi-arid regions. (Meyer's introductions.)

PHASEOLUS VULGARIS. "Succotash bean." 22954. Seed grown at Arlington Farm, Va., by Prof. C. V. Piper. Original seed presented by Mr. G. S. Arnold, Angelica, New York, June 10, 1908. He says of it: "They are climbers, prolific and very nice for table use as green shelled beans." For distribution later.

PISTACIA VERA. 27993. Elisavetpol, Caucasus. Pistachio nuts bought on the market in Elisavetpol, said to come from Persia. Not of very fine flavor. (Meyer's introduction.)

POLYGONUM TINCTORIUM. 27949. From Yokohama, Japan. Purchased from the Yokohama Nursery Co. "Introduced for trial as a nectar producing crop to be grown on waste lands in cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology; also for testing as a tannin plant." (R. A. Young.) Distributed.

PROTEA MELLIFERA. 28016. From Cape Town, South Africa. Presented by the Conservator of Forests. A South African bush, useful both as an ornamental and as a bee plant. For distribution later.

PRUNUS PUMILA. 28022. From Tiflis Botanical Garden, Caucasus. A low-growing bush cherry found in dry, stony places in the Caucasus. Bears a multitude of small, rosy flowers in April, and small, sour fruits which can be used for jellies. Recommended for use in hybridizing to create large-fruited, bushy forms of cherries for arid and semi-arid regions. (Meyer's introduction.)

PUNICA GRANATUM. 27961-62, 27965-967. A collection of five varieties of pomegranates from Elisavetpol, Caucasus. Elisavetpol is famous for its pomegranates, which are said to be of finer quality than those grown anywhere else in the Caucasus. (Meyer's introductions.)

RAPHANUS SATIVUS. 27807. From Erivan, Caucasus. A local variety of radish, being large, round and of a bright red color. A spring vegetable. 27808. Large, long, white radish from Erivan. (Meyer's introductions.)

SATUREJA HORTENSIS. 27813. A Caucasian summer vegetable, called Marza; said to grow only a few inches high. (Meyer's introduction.)

SICANA ODORIFERA. 28012. From Urubamba River, Peru. Presented by Prof. Wm. Curtis Farabee. "Seeds from a red gourd or pumpkin, growing on a vine which makes good shade. The fruits are good to eat and have a very pleasant odor." (Farabee.) For distribution later.

TRITICUM AESTIVUM. 27995. From Erivan, Caucasus. A local variety of soft, white, winter wheat. To be tested under irrigation in mild-wintered climates. (Meyer's introduction.)

VICIA FABA. 27983. From Elisavetpol, Caucasus. A small variety of broad bean, grown locally as a garden vegetable by the Persian population. (Meyer's introduction.)

VIGNA UNGUICULATA. 27930. From Atlanta, Ga. Purchased from Messrs. H. G. Hastings & Co., who say of it: "This is a strictly new cowpea found by us in the hands of an Atlanta market gardener. We call it the Quick Pea, because it is the quickest in the market. It makes plenty of long, slender, meaty, fine flavored pods for use as snaps, coming in before anything else. Three crops a year can be grown." For distribution later.

VITIS VINIFERA. 27963-64. Two varieties of grape from Elisavetpol, Caucasus. No. 27963 is a pale yellow grape of medium size; a good shipper and keeper. No. 27964 is a round, white grape, which is phenomenally productive. (Meyer's introductions.)

ZEA MAYS. 27937-946. A collection of ten varieties of corn from Guerrero, Mexico. Procured by Hon. Marion Letcher, American Consul at Acapulco, Mexico. No. 27936. Corn from Guadalajara, Mexico. Procured by Hon. Samuel E. Magill, American Consul. For distribution later.

RECENT VISITORS.

JAPAN. Miss B. Catherine Pifer. Miss Pifer is an evangelist and has traveled very extensively in Japan, Formosa and portions of China. She is very unusually interested in plants and has had special opportunities to find out the uses made by Orientals of the plants which they grow. When she returns to Japan she will be very glad to look up matters connected with the horticulture or agriculture of those regions through which she travels. She calls attention to the fact that the variety of persimmon from the fruits of which the kaki-shibu, used in Japan for waterproofing papers is made, has a remarkable odor when ripening. She reports that the Japanese consider that the eating of udo (Aralia cordata) produces a quieting effect on one's nerves. She has eaten it for years in Japan, and considers it one of the best vegetables in the world. She reads Japanese.

Passiflora ligularis.

"One of the best of the passion vine fruits. The fruit is about the size of an egg, with a parchment-like skin, containing a sweet acidulous pulp surrounding the seeds. It grows on a vine which clings by tendrils, and is cultivated on verandas and arbors, producing fruit in a few months after planting. The fruit is used in making sherbets and refreshing drinks.

"It is recommended for tropical and sub-tropical regions, and for greenhouse culture." (W. E. Safford.)